



Australia Indonesia Association (ACT) Inc.
PO Box 7252 Duffy ACT 2611

53th Annual President's Report 2017-2018

This is 53th year in the ACT that AIA has been successful in achieving our aim:

To promote friendship and understanding between the people of Australia and the people of Indonesia

During the last AIA (ACT) financial year the Indonesian Embassy has again provided greatly appreciated support. We are indebted to Bapak Kristiarto Legowo and all the staff members who are always extremely helpful and kindly support AIA with facilities for language classes, committee meetings, functions and other support in many ways.

For the AIA (ACT) financial year 2017-2018 the financial membership was:

- ✓ Life Members: 3
- ✓ Single Memberships paid: 42
- ✓ Family Memberships paid: 17
- ✓ Corporate memberships paid: 2 (Indonesian Embassy and Gamelan Group)
- ✓ Thus, a total adult membership of approximately 139.

ACTIVITIES: Over the last year AIA (ACT) conducted and participated in a number of activities. The major activities since the 52th AGM were:

- ✓ AIA operated a stall at Festival Indonesia 2017 at the Embassy on 25 November 2017.
- ✓ AIA held an End of Year Function at Ginseng Restaurant at the Hellenic Club in Woden on 10 December 2017.
- ✓ AIA held an Australia Day Celebration Bar-B-Que at the home of Yetty and Gary Daly on 26 January 2018 which included toasts to both nations and singing of both national anthems.
- ✓ AIA members joined the 73th Independence Day celebrations at the Embassy on 17 August 2018.
- ✓ AIA held a wonderful Winter Dinner with great cultural entertainment at the Notaras Centre of the Government Multicultural Centre in the City on 18 August 2018, which had a record attendance of 132 members and friends. Unfortunately the Indonesian Ambassador, HE Bapak Kristiarto Legowo was not able to attend but his wife Ibu Caecilia attended and the Deputy Head of Mission, Pak Derry Aman represented the Embassy and provided a very encouraging speech about the future for the Australia Indonesia relationship. The second speaker was Miriam Tulevski, Managing Director of Visit Indonesia Tourism Office (NSW/ACT/QLD/NT) and Indo a Go-Go, who provided a very informative presentation on the top ten emerging tourist locations in Indonesia, other than Bali. Ibu Shinta was away so this year so AIA Vice-President Australia, Phil Domaschenz, MC'd the dinner in his usual classy manner. The culinary delights provided by AIA Vice-President Indonesia, Ibu Yetty, and Indo Café were truly delicious. The cultural highlight of the function was the skilful performance of the large Balinese Gamalen group supported by Indonesian singers and dancers. There was also the Inoeg Band who were supported by a range of singers including a great ladies group led by Ibu Caecilia. Thanks to the generosity of Indo Café and all the committee members for donating prizes for the raffle which was organised by AIA Secretary, Bill Rhemrev, and raised \$1,050 for our charity projects. A special thanks to Indo Café for the fantastic Door prize of a \$500 travel voucher which was won by Don Anderson who has been a loyal member and supporter of AIA for decades.

INDONESIAN LANGUAGE: Phil Domaschenz has again continued his dedicated and very professional organising of the Indonesian Language Training. Phil commits a lot of time and effort to running the classes so successfully. The skills and commitment of the native speaking teachers continues to ensure the success of the classes and again this year the teachers have done a wonderful job. During the year we have had four

semesters with five to six classes of about 8-10 students per class of 8 weeks per semester. We provided classes at Advanced, Intermediate, Continuing Beginners and two Beginners levels. Again AIA has been greatly assisted and able to keep the cost for attendees down through the generosity of the Indonesian Embassy in allowing AIA to use the Balai Budaya dan Bahasa - Cultural Centre for the classes. The Embassy has also supported with funds to help provide projectors, printers and other teaching resources and funds to award some prizes to encourage students. The low cost is a great help to the continuing success of the classes.

CHARITIES: AIA has continued providing assistance to help the disadvantaged in Indonesia and assist with their education throughout the year. The main efforts have been:

- ✓ **SMP2 PLAYEN** – For the last 17 years AIA has provided funding to support the education of disadvantaged students at SMP2 Playen in Kecamatan Playen in Kabupaten Gunung Kidul in Provinsi Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta. AIA increased the funding to \$1,500 per annum two years ago. The school continues accounting and managing the funds excellently. There has not been a visit by an AIA (ACT) member for three years so we are seeking members to visit while in that region.
- ✓ **NTA Training of Teachers Program** – AIA again this year provided \$3,000AUD to the Nusa Tenggara Association (NTA) to support training of local teachers. This assistance is critical as the poor rural schools in the Nusa Tenggara area struggle to attract fully qualified teachers and rely to a large extent on *guru honor* (teachers with a basic school education usually sourced from local communities). The training program provides some basic exposure for these teachers to teaching techniques and the school curriculum. The AIA committee wish to acknowledge an extremely generous donation of \$5,000.00 to our charitable efforts from David Hickman and his wife Susan Mickleburgh. As the donation was in honour of Susan's parents, the AIA committee agreed to provide a further \$1,000 and use the funding for two years of NTA Training of Teachers at a cost of \$3,000 per year. To honour them, the courses in the first year will be called the [AIA - DR Michael \(Mick\) Mickleburgh Program](#) and in the second year [AIA – Mrs June Mickleburgh OAM Program](#) (she was awarded the OAM for her work with refugees).

SUPPORT TO INDONESIAN LANGUAGE TRAINING AT ANU: AIA has continued the long standing practice of providing an annual Award for best Indonesian language student at ANU, which was increased to \$500 in 2012. The winner of the award for 2017 was Alex Miglietti.

IMPROVED PAYMENTS: Our Treasurer this financial year, Karim Najjarine, has continued the use of pay online for events. Again this has greatly reduced the effort required for accounting and especially the availability, timeliness and quality of information about those paying to participate. Pay Online has proven to be extremely successful for payment for Language classes, Membership and the Winter Dinner.

IMPROVED WEB SITE: We have been very fortunate to have Damon Searle join the committee and take up the position of Honorary Web Master. The improvements to our website, aia-act.org.au have greatly increased the functionality and linking to events and language training for payments. We are in the process of getting more AIA stories and photographs to display on our site and thank Damon for his efforts.

DISASTERS IN INDONESIA: We are all very saddened to hear about the terrible loss of lives and destruction from earthquakes and tsunami over the recent weeks in Indonesia on the Islands of Lombok and Sulawesi. Our thoughts and well wishes are with the victims.

I apologise that I am not able to be present at the AGM to deliver this report as I am undergoing an unexpected cancer operation on 2 October 2018. I remain positive about the outcomes of my operation and offer myself for re-election in 2018-2019. I am disappointed that we have not held as many events and functions as in some previous years and hope in the near future we can rectify that, starting with an event to raise support funds for the victims of the earthquakes and tsunami. I again thank all the AIA committee members who have done a wonderful job over the last year, and many of them for a very long time. I greatly appreciate their willing and eager support and dedicated efforts for AIA. Finally, I note we have started the replacement of our old committee members with younger members and encourage younger members to join the committee.



Les Boag President